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Attention: Docket number FMCSA- 2002-12334 - //	Date: 3-8-2003
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Total pages, including cover: 2**Comments:**

Docket number FMCSA-2002-12334

AS an owner operator who has previously worked for several companies, I think this is a really great idea. Most of the companies are good at weeding out the hot-dogs, but all of them are pushed for more drivers.

When I started out the school I went to was **40 hours a week for 4 months**. the **same school is NOW 3 weeks**. Our first 2 weeks were spent in the classroom learning the rules and regulations. The next two weeks were spent **UNDER a truck, learning where all the parts are, and what to check them for BEFORE YOU GET IN AND DRIVE OFF**. Then we spent 3 months driving and backing and parking etc.

They use the new drivers straight out of the shortest running schools because they can pay them less per mile than an experienced driver. **They send them out with a trainer for 4-5 weeks to familiarize them more with the way the company works**, than to teach them how to drive.

They run the trainers with "students" as a team. That is just plain wrong. These trucks should be run as a single driver truck, and the entire time that a student is driving the **trainer should be in the jump seat** so that he (or she, as the case may be) is available to answer questions and make suggestions, **not asleep in the bunk**.

this will probably be an unpopular suggestion, but I think that all drivers holding a CDL should be at least 25. We really don't need kids out there with an 80,000 LB vehicle. **We were all invincible at 19 to 21 years old, we could do anything!!**

The companies are pushing the dispatchers to move the freight, and in turn the dispatchers are pushing the drivers to make the deliveries. Running the younger, less experienced drivers (that they pay bottom dollar) harder, because the company makes more money off the load if they pay the driver less.

Please don't get me wrong here, because everyone has to start somewhere. **None of us were born driving a truck**. But the older drivers have less to prove to the other drivers, and more experience in a vehicle of any size that allows them to make better decisions on the road.

With youth comes impatience, with age comes patience.

Just remember that you cant buy anything at the store until a truck delivers it. trains and planes don't get to product to "Walmart". If you limit the number of drivers by restrictions, then you will drive of the price of delivery, and you end up paying more at the store for the product.

I've always said that all we (the truck drivers) have to do to shut down this country is shut down the tanker trucks. Just see how much gets done when you run out of gas at the station, **and it wont get there without the trucks!!!!**

DO NOT CUT OFF YOUR NOSE TO SPITE YOUR FACE!!! USE A LITTLE COMMON SENSE TO GET MORE AND BETTER TRAINING FOR THE NEW DRIVERS, REGARDLESS OF AGE.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and at least listening to the views of the common people that put you (or your boss) in office.